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2625	

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>31 January 2006</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-6 and 9-37* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-6 and 9-37* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1.   Applicant's amendment was received on 1/31/06, and has been entered and made of

record. Currently, **claims 1-6, and 9-37** are pending.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments filed 1/31/06 have been fully considered but they are not

persuasive.

        In response to applicant's argument regarding the rejection of claim 1, which was cited in

the Office action dated 10/31/05 as being unpatentable over Maniwa (U.S. Patent Number

5,764,866, cited in the Office action dated 6/3/05) in view of Blumberg (U.S. Patent Number

6,708,309). The primary reference of Manawa teaches of a system that includes the limitation of

automatically synthesizing the scan data file including the scan data generated during the

scanning step and meta data (column 3, lines 8-17, seen in Figs. 4A-4C, wherein packet 83

comprises the application data 84, which is considered as meta data) relating to properties of the

specific scan job type (column 12, line 5-column 13, line 37), with a processing being done at an

image server, as read in column 19, lines 53-60, which states that the "scan server 94 applies

various image processing to files stored in the file server 93 in a similar manner to the processing

of image data stored in the hard-drive unit 23". Thus an image server is processing the scan data.

However, Manawa fails to expressly disclose if the metadata also includes data for selecting a

certain further processing of the scan data in an image server and data for directing the selected

further processing of the scan data in the image server. Blumberg teaches in column 10, lines

18-26, that "meta-data also includes parameters for transformations to be applied to the image,

such as rotations and scaling, general affine spatial transformations, contrast adjustment, color

space transformations, etc." Further, Blumberg shows in Fig. 6 and read in column 16, lines 12-

48, that an image server acquires an image and processes the image to create an "image-less

document". This processing is performed in a server, as seen in Figs. 6 and 7, and read in

column 17, lines 5-20. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art can recognize that it would have

been obvious to have Maniwa's system include metadata that includes data for selecting a certain

further processing of the scan data in an image server and data for directing the selected further

processing of the scan data in the image server. Therefore, the combination of Maniwa and

Blumberg teach of the limitation that requires automatically synthesizing the scan data file

including the scan data generated during the scanning step and meta data relating to the

properties of said specific scan job type, said metadata also including data for selecting a certain

further processing of the scan data in an image server and data for directing said selected further

processing of the scan data in the image server, as currently required in independent claim 1

3.   Therefore, the rejection of **claims 1-6, 9-14, 19-21, and 25-30,** as cited in the Office

action dated 10/31/05 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maniwa (U.S. Patent

Number 5,764,866) in view of Blumberg (U.S. Patent Number 6,708,309), is maintained and

repeated in this Office action.

Claim Objections

4.   **Claim 34** is objected to because of the following informalities:

In *claim 34*, line 1, "method" should read "apparatus".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5.   The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found

in a prior Office action.

6.   **Claims 1-6, 9-14, 19-21, 25-30, 32, 33, and 35-37** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Maniwa (U.S. Patent Number 5,764,866, cited in the Office action dated

10/31/05) in view of Blumberg (U.S. Patent Number 6,708,309, cited in the Office action dated

10/31/05).

Regarding *claim 1*, Maniwa discloses a method for automating processing of scan data

files generated by a digital image scanner (see abstract), comprising selecting, at the scanner, a

specific scan job type from a list of predefined scan job types (steps S3-S5 in Fig. 5, column 14,

lines 25-52), each scan job type having pre-specified properties (column 14, lines 25-35),

scanning one or more documents according to properties of the specific scan job type (column

14, line 53-column 15, line 10), thereby generating a file of scan data, automatically synthesizing

the scan data file including the scan data generated during the scanning step and meta data

(column 3, lines 8-17, seen in Figs. 4A-4C, wherein packet 83 comprises the application data 84,

which is considered as meta data) relating to properties of the specific scan job type (column 12,

line 5-column 13, line 37), transmitting the scan data file to an image server (column 12, lines

39-65, and column 16, line 59-column 17, line 52), automatically analyzing, upon reception of

the scan data file in the image server, the scan data file as to the data contained therein, and

automatically further processing the scan data file in a way specified by the meta data contained

therein (column 12, lines 49-column 13, line 16, column 17, line 20-column 18, line 13, column

19, lines 44-60, and column 21, line 14-column 22, line 14).

However, Maniwa fails to expressly disclose if the metadata also includes data for

selecting a certain further processing of the scan data in an image server and data for directing

the selected further processing of the scan data in the image server.

Blumberg discloses a method comprising automatically synthesizing the scan data file

including the scan data generated during the scanning step and meta data relating to properties of

the specific scan job type (column 10, lines 4-26), the metadata also including data for selecting

a certain further processing of the scan data in an image server and data for directing the selected

further processing of the scan data (column 10, lines 18-26), transmitting the scan data file to an

image server (column 8, lines 30-57, and column 26, line 12-24), automatically analyzing, upon

reception of the scan data file in the image server, the scan data file as to the data contained

therein (column 16, lines 12-48), and automatically further processing the scan data file in a way

specified by the meta data contained therein (column 10, lines 18-26, and column 16, lines 13-

48).

Maniwa & Blumberg are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor,

being systems that send scanned documents to a server for subsequent access. At the time of the

invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use metadata,

with the metadata including data for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data in an

image server and data for directing the selected further processing of the scan data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Maniwa's system would transmit images more efficiently, wherein only the minimal amount of image data necessary to satisfy a client request is transmitted. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Blumberg with the system of Maniwa to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Regarding *claim 2*, Maniwa and Blumberg disclose the method discussed above in claim 1, and Maniwa further teaches of pre-defining a scan job type, including specifying properties for the scan job type (column 4, lines 25-35), transmitting a scan job type definition thus made to the scanner, and upon reception of a scan job type definition at the scanner, including the scan job type in the list of scan job types (column 14, lines 36-48).

Regarding *claim 3*, Maniwa and Blumberg disclose the method discussed above in claim 1, and Maniwa further teaches of transmitting the scan job type definition to the image server and installing the scan job type therein, for reference when a scan data file is analyzed (column 14, line 25-column 15, line 10).

Regarding *claim 4*, Maniwa and Blumberg disclose the method discussed above in claim 1, and Maniwa further teaches that the meta data contained in the synthesized scan data file includes an application selector string which specifies the way of further processing of the scan data file (column 13, lines 8-17).

Regarding *claim 5*, Maniwa and Blumberg disclose the method discussed above in claim 1, and Maniwa further teaches of automatically synthesizing a file name for a scan data file, the file name including at least part of the meta data (column 12, line 5-column 13, line 16).

Regarding *claim 6*, Maniwa and Blumberg disclose the method discussed above in claim

1, and Maniwa further teaches that the processing includes displaying the scan data file on a

display screen, storing the scan data file in a specified database, **or** submitting said scan data file

to a printer for printing (column 13, line 49-column 14, line 55).

Regarding *claim 9*, Maniwa and Blumberg disclose the method discussed above in claim

1, and Maniwa further teaches that in the scanning step, the scan data are generated according to

specifications specified by the properties of the selected scan job type (column 13, lines 8-17,

and column 14, lines 25-66).

Regarding *claim 10*, Maniwa and Blumberg disclose the method discussed above in

claim 1, and Maniwa further teaches that the properties of a scan job type include the

requirement of a job number being given for a scan job (column 12, lines 24-38, and column 14,

lines 36-52), and wherein, before a scan job of the type is started, an operator is asked to enter a

job number for that job, and the job number is automatically included in the meta data contained

in the scan data file generated (column 14, lines 25-58).

Regarding *claim 11*, Maniwa discloses a method for use in a networked scanner device

(see abstract), in which documents are scanned thereby generating scan data and in which

generated scan data are uploaded to a server via a network (column 12, lines 49-column 13, line

16, column 17, line 20-column 18, line 13, and column 21, line 14-column 22, line 14), the

method comprising scanning a document to generate scan data (column 14, line 53-column 15,

line 10), and automatically generating a composite scan data file that includes the generated scan

data and a composite meta data (column 3, lines 8-17, seen in Figs. 4A-4C, wherein packet 83

comprises the application data 84, which is considered as meta data) comprising an application

selector code which specifies a further processing step in the server for further processing the scan data (column 12, line 5-column 13, line 37).

However, Maniwa fails to expressly disclose if the metadata also includes an application selector code for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data in the server and comprising additional data for directing the selected further processing of the scan data in the server.

Blumberg discloses a method comprising automatically generating a composite scan data file that includes the generated scan data (column 10, lines 4-26) and composite meta data comprising an application selector code for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data in the server and comprising additional data for directing the selected further processing of the scan data in the server (column 10, lines 18-26).

Maniwa & Blumberg are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, being systems that send scanned documents to a server for subsequent access. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use metadata, with the metadata including data for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data in an image server and data for directing the selected further processing of the scan data in the server. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Maniwa's system would transmit images more efficiently, wherein only the minimal amount of image data necessary to satisfy a client request is transmitted. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Blumberg with the system of Maniwa to obtain the invention as specified in claim 11.

Regarding *claim 12*, Maniwa and Blumberg disclose the method discussed above in claim 11, and Maniwa further teaches of automatically generating a file name for the scan data

file, the file name including at least part of the composite meta data (column 12, line 5-column

13, line 16, and column 16, lines 11-57).

Regarding *claim 13*, Maniwa and Blumberg disclose the method discussed above in

claim 11, and Maniwa further teaches of storing generic composite meta data including an

application selector code, completing, by an operator, the generic composite meta data by

entering additional identification data (column 12, line 5-column 13, line 16, and column 16,

lines 11-57), forming specific composite meta data based on the generic composite meta data and

the additional identification data entered by the operator (column 14, lines 25-52, and column 16,

lines 11-57), and scanning a document thereby generating a scan data file including the specific

composite meta data (column 14, line 53-column 15, line 17, and column 16, lines 11-57).

Regarding *claim 14*, Maniwa and Blumberg disclose the method discussed above in

claim 11, and Maniwa further teaches of storing at least two different sequences of generic

composite meta data (column 12, line 24-column 13, line 17), each relating to a respective scan

job type and including a different application selector code, presenting for selection the

respective scan job types to an operator of the scanner device, selection, by the operator, of one

of the scan job types (column 14, lines 25-55), scanning a document thereby generating a scan

data file including a specific sequence of composite meta data based on the generic sequence of

composite meta data of a scan job type selected by the operator (column 14, lines 25-52, and

column 16, lines 11-57).

Regarding *claim 19*, Maniwa discloses an apparatus for use in a networked scanner

device (see abstract), in which documents are scanned thereby generating scan data and in which

generated scan data are uploaded to a server via a network (column 12, lines 49-column 13, line

16, column 17, line 20-column 18, line 13, and column 21, line 14-column 22, line 14), the apparatus comprising a scan data generator to generate scan data for a document (column 14, line 53-column 15, line 10), and a unit to automatically generate a composite scan data file including the generated scan data and meta data (column 3, lines 8-17, seen in Figs. 4A-4C, wherein packet 83 comprises the application data 84, which is considered as meta data) including an application selector code which specifies a further processing step in the server for further processing the scan data (column 12, line 5-column 13, line 37).

However, Maniwa fails to expressly disclose if the metadata also includes data for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data in an image server and data for directing the selected further processing of the scan data.

Blumberg discloses an apparatus comprising a unit to automatically generate a composite scan data file that includes the generated scan data (column 10, lines 4-26) and composite meta data comprising an application selector code for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data in the server and comprising additional data for directing the selected further processing of the scan data (column 10, lines 18-26).

Maniwa & Blumberg are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, being systems that send scanned documents to a server for subsequent access. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use metadata, with the metadata including data for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data in an image server and data for directing the selected further processing of the scan data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Maniwa's system would transmit images more efficiently, wherein only the minimal amount of image data necessary to satisfy a

client request is transmitted. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of

Blumberg with the system of Maniwa to obtain the invention as specified in claim 19.

Regarding *claim 20*, Maniwa and Blumberg disclose the apparatus discussed above in

claim 19, and Maniwa further teaches of a unit to store generic composite meta data (column 12,

line 5-column 13, line 16, and column 16, lines 11-57), including an application selector code, a

unit to enter, by the operator, additional identification data to complete said generic composite

meta data (column 12, line 5-column 13, line 16, and column 16, lines 11-57), a unit to form a

specific composite scan data file based on the generic composite meta data and the additional

identification data entered by the operator (column 14, lines 25-52, and column 16, lines 11-57),

and a unit to scan a document thereby generating a scan data file including the specific

composite meta data (column 14, line 53-column 15, line 17, and column 16, lines 11-57).

Regarding *claim 21*, Maniwa and Blumberg disclose the apparatus discussed above in

claim 19, and Maniwa further teaches of a unit to store at least two different sequences of generic

composite meta data (column 12, line 24-column 13, line 17), each relating to a respective scan

job type and including a different application selector code, a unit to present for selection the

respective scan job types to an operator of the scanner device, a unit to select, by the operator, of

one of the scan job types (column 14, lines 25-55), a unit to scan a document thereby generating

a scan data file including specific composite meta data based on the generic composite meta data

of the scan job type selected by the operator (column 14, lines 25-52, and column 16, lines 11-

57).

Regarding *claim 25*, Maniwa and Blumberg disclose the apparatus discussed above in

claim 21, and Maniwa further teaches of a unit to define, at a remote site, a scan job type

including a sequence of generic composite meta data including an application selector code and

possibly data fields to be completed by an operator (column 14, lines 25-58, and column 16,

lines 11-57), and a unit to download the defined scan job type including the sequence of generic

composite meta data to the scanner device for use in the device (column 14, line 36-column 16,

line 46).

Regarding *claim 26*, Maniwa discloses a data structure for use in a memory of a

networked scanner device (see abstract, and column 8, lines 36-54), in which documents are

scanned thereby generating scan data and in which generated scan data are uploaded to a server

via a network (column 12, lines 49-column 13, line 16, column 17, line 20-column 18, line 13,

and column 21, line 14-column 22, line 14), the scan file including the data structure comprising

a scan data object to specify scan data pertaining to contents of one or more scanned documents

of the scan file (column 12, lines 5-42, and column 14, line 53-column 15, line 10), and a meta

data object (column 3, lines 8-17, seen in Figs. 4A-4C, wherein packet 83 comprises the

application data 84, which is considered as meta data), linked to the scan data object, to identify

composite meta data at least including an application selector code which specifies a further

processing step in the server for further processing the scan file (column 12, line 5-column 13,

line 37).

However, Maniwa fails to expressly disclose if the metadata object is linked to the image

data object, to identify composite meta data at least including an application selector code which

selects a certain further processing of the scan data in the server and comprising additional data

for directing the selected further processing of the scan file in the server.

Blumberg discloses a data structure having a meta data object, linked to the image data object, to identify composite meta data at least including an application selector code which selects a certain further processing of the scan data in the server and comprising additional data for directing the selected further processing of the scan file (column 10, lines 18-26).

Maniwa & Blumberg are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, being systems that send scanned documents to a server for subsequent access. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use metadata, with the metadata including data for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data in an image server and data for directing the selected further processing of the scan data in the server. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Maniwa's system would transmit images more efficiently, wherein only the minimal amount of image data necessary to satisfy a client request is transmitted. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Blumberg with the system of Maniwa to obtain the invention as specified in claim 26.

Regarding *claim 27*, Maniwa and Blumberg disclose the data structure discussed above in claim 26, and Maniwa further teaches an extra object, linked to one of the image data object and the meta data object, to specify additional identification data of the scan file (see Fig. 4C, column 12, lines 24-38).

Regarding *claim 28*, Maniwa discloses a generic data structure for use in a memory of a networked scanner device (see abstract, and column 8, lines 36-54), in which documents are scanned thereby generating a scan file and in which the generated scan file is uploaded to a server via a network (column 12, lines 49-column 13, line 16, column 17, line 20-column 18, line 13, and column 21, line 14-column 22, line 14), the scan file in the memory including the

data structure comprising a first section for accommodating image data specifying image

contents of one or more scanned documents (column 12, lines 5-42, and column 14, line 53-

column 15, line 10), a second section, linked to the first section, for accommodating composite

meta data (column 3, lines 8-17, seen in Figs. 4A-4C, wherein packet 83 comprises the

application data 84, which is considered as meta data) at least including a predefined application

selector code which specifies a further processing step in the server for further processing the

scan file and further including operator-completable additional identification data (column 12,

line 5-column 13, line 37).

However, Maniwa fails to expressly disclose of a data structure for accommodating

composite meta data at least including a predefined application selector code which selects a

certain further processing of the scan data in the server and comprising additional data for

directing the selected further processing of the scan file in the server.

Blumberg discloses a data structure accommodating composite meta data at least

including a predefined application selector code which selects a certain further processing of the

scan data in the server and comprising additional data for directing the selected further

processing of the scan file in the server (column 10, lines 18-26).

Maniwa & Blumberg are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor,

being systems that send scanned documents to a server for subsequent access. At the time of the

invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use metadata,

with the metadata including data for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data in an

image server and data for directing the selected further processing of the scan data in the server.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Maniwa's system would transmit

images more efficiently, wherein only the minimal amount of image data necessary to satisfy a

client request is transmitted. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of

Blumberg with the system of Maniwa to obtain the invention as specified in claim 28.

Regarding *claim 29*, Maniwa discloses an article of manufacture comprising a computer

readable medium having embedded thereon a computer program to be processed by a computer

that is connected (see abstract, and column 8, lines 36-54), via a network, to a scanner device for

scanning documents thereby generating a scan file and for uploading a generated scan file to a

server via the network (column 12, lines 49-column 13, line 16, column 17, line 20-column 18,

line 13, and column 21, line 14-column 22, line 14), the computer-readable-medium-embodied

program comprising a first segment to define generic composite meta data including an

application selector code field (column 3, lines 8-17, seen in Figs. 4A-4C, wherein packet 83

comprises the application data 84, which is considered as meta data), and a second segment to

download the defined generic composite meta data to the scanner device for use in the device

(column 12, line 5-column 13, line 37).

However, Maniwa fails to expressly disclose of defining composite meta data including

an application selector code field and an additional data field for directing data, the fields

together specifying a further processing of the generated scan data file to be performed in a

server device connected to the network.

Blumberg discloses an article of manufacture comprising a computer readable medium

having an embedded computer program comprising defining composite meta data including an

application selector code field and an additional data field for directing data, the fields together

specifying a further processing of the generated scan data file to be performed in a server device connected to the network (column 10, lines 18-26).

Maniwa & Blumberg are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, being systems that send scanned documents to a server for subsequent access. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use metadata, with the metadata including data for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data in an image server and data for directing the selected further processing of the scan data to be performed in a server device connected to the network. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Maniwa's system would transmit images more efficiently, wherein only the minimal amount of image data necessary to satisfy a client request is transmitted. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Blumberg with the system of Maniwa to obtain the invention as specified in claim 29.

Regarding *claim 30*, Maniwa and Blumberg disclose the article of manufacture discussed above in claim 29, and Maniwa further teaches that the first segment is also operable to define the generic composite meta data so as to include at least one data field to be completed to enter the additional directing data by an operator at the scanner device (column 13, lines 8 through 17).

Regarding *claims 32, 33, and 35-37*, Maniwa and Blumberg disclose the methods, data structures, and article of manufacture discussed above in claims 1, 11, 26, 28, and 29, respectively, and Blumberg further teaches that the scan data includes text scan data pertaining to texts included in the one or more scanned documents (see Figs. 4A-4C, and column 13, lines 36-55).

Maniwa & Blumberg are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor,

being systems that send scanned documents to a server for subsequent access. At the time of the

invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have text scan

data pertaining to texts included in the one or more scanned documents, as taught by Blumberg,

within the system of scanned image data of Maniwa. The suggestion/motivation for doing so

would have been that Maniwa's system would process common image, which includes text, as

recognized by Blumberg, so that system users can efficiently use the system. Therefore, it would

have been obvious to combine the further teachings of Blumberg with the system of Maniwa to

obtain the invention as specified in claims 32, 33, and 35-37.

7.   **Claim 31** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maniwa (U.S.

Patent Number 5,764,866, cited in the Office action dated 10/31/05) in view of Blumberg (U.S.

Patent Number 6,708,309, cited in the Office action dated 10/31/05), and further in view of

Ferguson *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 6,237,011, cited in the Office action dated 10/31/05).

Regarding *claim 31*, Maniwa and Blumberg disclose the method discussed above in

claim 1, but fail to expressly disclose if before starting a scan job in the scanning step according

to a selected scan job type to generate the scan data of the scan data file, asking the operator at a

local scanner user interface to enter the data for directing the selected further processing of the

scan data, and including the operator-entered data in the metadata of the scan data file.

Ferguson discloses a method for automating processing of scan data files generated by a

digital image scanner, comprising selecting, at the scanner, a specific scan job type from a list of

predefined scan job types, each scan job type having pre-specified properties (see abstract, and

Figs. 4-15, column 9, line 46-column 10, line 14), scanning one or more documents according to

properties of the specific scan job type, thereby generating a file of scan data (column 9, line 46-

column 10, line 34), automatically synthesizing the scan data file including the scan data

generated during the scanning step and meta data relating to properties of the specific scan job

type (column 10, lines 35-67), with the metadata also including data for selecting a certain

further processing of the scan data in an image server and data for directing the selected further

processing of the scan data (column 10, lines 35-67, and column 12, lines 58-64). Ferguson

further teaches that before starting a scan job in the scanning step according to a selected scan

job type to generate the scan data of the scan data file, asking the operator at a local scanner user

interface to enter the data for directing the selected further processing of the scan data, and

including the operator-entered data in the metadata of the scan data file (see Figs. 4-10, and

column 10, lines 35-67, and column 12, lines 58-64).

Maniwa, Blumberg, & Ferguson are combinable because they are from the same field of

endeavor, being systems that send scanned documents to storage for subsequent access. At the

time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to

include a local scanner user interface to enter data for directing the selected processing. The

suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that the system of Maniwa and Blumberg

would become more user friendly, as the operator would be able select various processings and

settings for the scanned document, as recognized by Ferguson in column 1, line 62-column 2,

line 28. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Ferguson with the

system of Maniwa and Blumberg to obtain the invention as specified in claim 31.

8.   **Claims 11, 14-19, 21-24, 33, and 34** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Maniwa *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,768,483, hereinafter noted as

Maniwa'483, cited in the Office action dated 10/31/05) in view of Blumberg (U.S. Patent

Number 6,708,309, cited in the Office action dated 10/31/05).

Regarding *claim 11*, Maniwa'483 discloses a method for use in a networked scanner

device (see abstract and Fig. 1), in which documents are scanned thereby generating scan data

and in which generated scan data are uploaded to a server via a network (column 3, lines 40

through 67), the method comprising scanning a document to generate scan data (column 7, lines

38-67, and column 19, line 49-column 20, line 67), and automatically generating a composite

scan data file that includes the generated scan data and a composite meta data (column 4, lines

19-26, column 21, lines 44-60, and column 23, lines 20-37, wherein the title of the scan profile is

included with the image file as a header, thereby being considered meta data) comprising an

application selector code which specifies a further processing step in the server for further

processing the scan data (column 3, line 40-column 4, line 26, and column 21, line 1-column 22,

line 34).

However, Maniwa'483 fails to expressly disclose if the metadata also includes an

application selector code for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data in the server

and comprising additional data for directing the selected further processing of the scan data.

Blumberg discloses a method comprising automatically generating a composite scan data

file that includes the generated scan data (column 10, lines 4-26) and composite meta data

comprising an application selector code for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data

in the server and comprising additional data for directing the selected further processing of the scan data (column 10, lines 18-26).

Maniwa'483 & Blumberg are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, being systems that send scanned documents to a server for subsequent access. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use metadata, with the metadata including data for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data in an image server and data for directing the selected further processing of the scan data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Maniwa'483's system would transmit images more efficiently, wherein only the minimal amount of image data necessary to satisfy a client request is transmitted. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Blumberg with the system of Maniwa'483 to obtain the invention as specified in claim 11.

Regarding *claim 14*, Maniwa'483 and Blumberg disclose the method discussed above in claim 11, and Manowa'483 further teaches of storing at least two different sequences of generic composite meta data, each relating to a respective scan job type and including a different application selector code (column 23, lines 20-37), presenting for selection the respective scan job types to an operator of the scanner device (column 21, lines 21-67), selection, by the operator, of one of the scan job types (column 21, line 44-column 22, line 8), scanning a document thereby generating a scan data file including a specific sequence of composite meta data based on the generic sequence of composite meta data of a scan job type selected by the operator (column 22, line 9-column 23, line 33).

Regarding *claim 15*, Maniwa'483 and Blumberg disclose the method discussed above in

claim 14, and Maniwa'483 further teaches of receiving identity information of an operator

(column 3, line 6-column 4, line 18, and column 27, line 33-column 28, line 28), wherein, in the

storing step, sets of at least one scan job type for each of a plurality of users are stored (see Table

2 in column 9), and wherein, upon receiving the identity information of the operator, the set of

scan job types of that operator is presented in the presenting step (see Table 2 in Fig. 9, and

column 3, line 6-column 4, line 18).

Regarding *claim 16*, Maniwa'483 and Blumberg disclose the method discussed above in

claim 14, and Maniwa'483 further teaches that the identity information of an operator is inputted

at the scanner device, and only the set of scan job types of that operator is presented (column 3,

line 6-column 4, line 18, and column 27, line 33-column 28, line 53).

Regarding *claim 17*, Maniwa'483 and Blumberg disclose the method discussed above in

claim 14, and Maniwa'483 further teaches that the identity information of an operator is inputted

at a remote site connected to the scanner, and the set of scan job types of that operator is

presented at the scanner device for a predetermined time interval (column 3, line 6-column 4,

line 18, and column 27, line 33-column 28, line 53).

Regarding *claim 18*, Maniwa'483 and Blumberg disclose the method discussed above in

claim 15, and Maniwa'483 further teaches of defining, at a remote site, a scan job type having a

sequence of generic composite meta data including an application selector code and possibly

data fields to be completed by an operator (column 4, lines 19-26, column 21, lines 44-60, and

column 23, lines 20-37), and downloading the defined scan job type and the related sequence of

generic composite meta data to the scanner device for use in the device (column 4, lines 19-26,

column 21, line 44-column 23, line 37).

Regarding *claim 19*, Maniwa'483 discloses an apparatus for use in a networked scanner

device (see abstract and Fig. 1), in which documents are scanned thereby generating scan data

and in which generated scan data are uploaded to a server via a network (column 3, lines 40

through 67), the apparatus comprising a scan data generator to generate scan data for a document

(column 7, lines 38-67, and column 19, line 49-column 20, line 67), and a unit to automatically

generate a composite scan data file including the generated scan data and meta data (column 4,

lines 19-26, column 21, lines 44-60, and column 23, lines 20-37, wherein the title of the scan

profile is included with the image file as a header, thereby being considered meta data) including

an application selector code which specifies a further processing step in the server for further

processing the scan data (column 3, line 40-column 4, line 26, and column 21, line 1-column 22,

line 34).

However, Maniwa'483 fails to expressly disclose if the metadata also includes data for

selecting a certain further processing of the scan data in an image server and data for directing

the selected further processing of the scan data.

Blumberg discloses an apparatus comprising a unit to automatically generate a composite

scan data file that includes the generated scan data (column 10, lines 4-26) and composite meta

data comprising an application selector code for selecting a certain further processing of the scan

data in the server and comprising additional data for directing the selected further processing of

the scan data (column 10, lines 18-26).

Maniwa'483 & Blumberg are combinable because they are from the same field of

endeavor, being systems that send scanned documents to a server for subsequent access. At the

time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use

metadata, with the metadata including data for selecting a certain further processing of the scan

data in an image server and data for directing the selected further processing of the scan data.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Maniwa''483s system would

transmit images more efficiently, wherein only the minimal amount of image data necessary to

satisfy a client request is transmitted. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the

teachings of Blumberg with the system of Maniwa'483 to obtain the invention as specified in

claim 19.

Regarding *claim 21*, Maniwa'483 and Blumberg disclose the apparatus discussed above

in claim 19, and Maniwa'483 further teaches of a unit to store at least two different sequences of

generic composite meta data, each relating to a respective scan job type and including a different

application selector code (column 23, lines 20-37), a unit to present for selection the respective

scan job types to an operator of the scanner device (column 21, lines 21-67), a unit to select, by

the operator, of one of the scan job types (column 21, line 44-column 22, line 8), a unit to scan a

document thereby generating a scan data file including specific composite meta data based on the

generic composite meta data of the scan job type selected by the operator (column 22, line 9-

column 23, line 33).

Regarding *claim 22*, Maniwa'483 and Blumberg disclose the apparatus discussed above

in claim 21, and Maniwa'483 further teaches of a unit for receiving identity information of an

operator (column 3, line 6-column 4, line 18, and column 27, line 33-column 28, line 28), and

wherein the unit to store generic composite meta data stores sets of at least one scan job type for

each of a plurality of users (see Table 2 in column 9), and wherein the unit to present scan job

types for selection is connected to the unit for receiving identity information of an operator so as

to present, upon receiving the identity information of an operator, the set of scan job types of that

operator (see Table 2 in Fig. 9, and column 3, line 6-column 4, line 18).

Regarding *claim 23*, Maniwa'483 and Blumberg disclose the apparatus discussed above

in claim 22, and Maniwa'483 further teaches that the unit for receiving identity information of an

operator is operable to input identity information of an operator at the scanner device, and the

unit to present scan job types for selection is operable to present the set of scan job types of that

operator only (column 3, line 6-column 4, line 18, and column 27, line 33-column 28, line 53).

Regarding *claim 24*, Maniwa'483 and Blumberg disclose the apparatus discussed above

in claim 22, and Maniwa'483 further teaches that the unit for receiving identity information of an

operator is connected to a remote site for inputting identity information of an operator, and the

unit to present generic composite scan file names for selection is operable to present the set of

scan job types of that operator at the scanner device for a predetermined time interval (column 3,

line 6-column 4, line 18, and column 27, line 33-column 28, line 53).

Regarding *claims 33 and 34*, Maniwa'483 and Blumberg disclose the methods discussed

above in claims 11 and 19, and Blumberg further teaches that the scan data includes text scan

data pertaining to texts included in the scanned document (see Figs. 4A-4C, and column 13, lines

36-55).

Maniwa'483 & Blumberg are combinable because they are from the same field of

endeavor, being systems that send scanned documents to a server for subsequent access. At the

time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have

text scan data pertaining to texts included in the one or more scanned documents, as taught by

Blumberg, within the system of scanned image data of Maniwa'483. The suggestion/motivation

for doing so would have been that Maniwa'483's system would process common image, which

includes text, as recognized by Blumberg, so that system users can efficiently use the system.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the further teachings of Blumberg with the

system of Maniwa'483 to obtain the invention as specified in claims 33 and 34.

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing

date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Joe Pokrzywa whose telephone number is (571) 272-7410. The

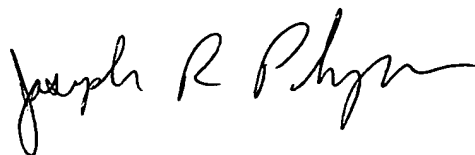examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated

information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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PRIMARY EXAMINER